REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants received the Office Action dated February 26, 2004, in which the Examiner: (1) objected to the Fig. 7 and Fig. 8 for not including descriptive labels; (2) objected to the specification for various informalities; (3) objected to claim 1-10 and 15-16 for an informality; (4) rejected claims 8 and 17 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; (5) rejected claims 1-2, 8-13, and 17-19 as anticipated by Shin (U.S. Patent No. 5,974,464); and (6) objected to claims 3-7 and 14-16 as dependent on a rejected base claim, but otherwise allowable. In this Response, Applicants amend Fig. 7 and 8, the specification, claims 1, 8, 11, and 15, and cancel claim 12. Based on the arguments and amendments contained herein, Applicants believe all claims to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

I. DRAWING OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objected to Fig. 7 and Fig 8 for not including descriptive labels. As requested by the Examiner, Applicants amend Fig. 7 and Fig. 8 to include descriptive labels for elements 700, 710, 830, 840, 850, and 860.

II. DISCLOSURE OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objected to the specification for various informalities. As requested by the Examiner, Applicants amend the specification on page 1, lines 5-10, to update the Serial No. 09/596,980, now U.S. Patent No. 6,690,757 B1, already referenced in the disclosure. Applicants also amend the specification to incorporate the descriptive labels for various boxes that are already present in Figs. 7 and 8. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

III. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner noted various grammatical informalities in claims 1 and 15. As requested by the Examiner, Applicants amend claim 1 to delete the word "that" and amend claim 15 to replace the word "decode" with "decodes." Applicants did not amend claims 1 and 15 for reason of patentability and did not narrow the scope of the claims.

IV.   THE § 112, 1ST PARAGRAPH, REJECTIONS

The Examiner rejected claims 8 and 17 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. In particular, the Examiner noticed an inconsistency between claim 8, claim 17, and Fig. 8. Applicants amend claim 8 to replace the phrase "8B/10B" with "10B/8B," thereby ensuring consistency between claim 8 and Fig. 8. This amendment corrects a typographic error and does not narrow the scope of claim 8.

Claim 17 recites a method that comprises, among other limitations, that a "running disparity code is an 8B/10B code." This limitation finds support in the Applicants' disclosure at least at page 5, line 19 - page 6, line 14. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8 and 17 are allowable over § 112, first paragraph.

V.   THE § 102 REJECTIONS

Amended claim 1 is directed to an adapter that comprises, among other limitations, "a circuit configured to determine if the sequence of received symbols is incorrect due to inversion of the differential signal, wherein the lane receiver is configured to correct for inversion of the differential signal if the circuit determines inversion exists." The art of record does not teach or even suggest the above cited limitation. Shin appears to disclose identifying which symbols include selectively complemented bytes, but clearly fails to disclose that a lane receiver is configured to correct for inversion, as required by claim 1. Accordingly, the art of record does not anticipate nor render obvious the invention of claim 1 and dependent claims 2-10.
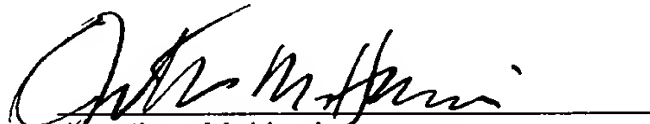
Amended claim 11 is directed to a method of correcting for differential signal inversion that comprises, among other limitations, "determining if the sequence of received symbols is incorrect due to inversion of the differential signal; and inverting the sequence of code symbols if inversion is determined." As explained above regarding claim 1, the art of record does not correcting for the inversion by inverting the sequence of code symbols. Thus, the art of record does not anticipate nor render obvious the invention of claim 11 and dependent claims 12-19.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any fees or time extensions are inadvertently omitted or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Hewlett-Packard Company Deposit Account Number 08-2025 and enter any time extension(s) necessary to prevent this case from being abandoned.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

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